

# Francis Howell School District

## Middle School

### COURSE DESCRIPTION HANDBOOK

### 2016-2017

# GRADE 8

**Francis Howell  
School District**



**LEARNING TOGETHER**

Barnwell Middle School	Principal: David Eckhoff	(636) 851-4100
Bryan Middle School	Principal: Mark Delaney	(636) 851-5800
Francis Howell Middle School	Principal: Dr. Ted Huff	(636) 851-4800
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# FHSD MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE ENROLLMENT GUIDE 2016-17

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## EIGHTH GRADE COURSE SELECTIONS

The middle school day consists of seven periods.

The following five full-year courses are required of all eighth grade students:

1. English Language Arts 8 or Pre-Advanced Placement English Language Arts 8
2. Math 8 or Algebra -this course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript
3. Physical Science 8 or Honors Physical Science 8 -this course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript
4. US History 8 or Pre-Advanced Placement US History 8
5. Physical Education & Health 8

This leaves two class periods (four semesters) to complete the schedule.

This can be accomplished by selecting one of the following options A, B, or C:

- A. Select two year-long electives.
- B. Select one year-long elective and two semester-long electives.
- C. Select four semester-long electives.

### Year-Long Electives

Must register for both semesters

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. Beginning Band   | Sem 1 7871331 and Sem 2 7871332 |
| 2. Band 8   | Sem 1 0871101 and Sem 2 0871102 |
| 3. Choir 8  | Sem 1 0871201 and Sem 2 0871202 |
| 4. <u>French I-this course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript</u>           | Sem 1 0871701 and Sem 2 0871702 |
| 5. <u>Spanish I-this course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript</u>          | Sem 1 0872301 and Sem 2 0872302 |
| 6. <u>German I-this course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript</u>           | Sem 1 0870801 and Sem 2 0870802 |
| 7. <u>Mandarin Chinese I-this course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript</u> | Sem 1 0871901 and Sem 2 0871902 |
| 8. SPECTRA (Must Qualify)   | Sem 1 0873001 and Sem 2 0873002 |

### Semester-Long Electives

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Art 8   | 0871003 |
| 2. Family and Consumer Sciences 8A*                | 0871503 |
| 3. Family and Consumer Sciences 8B*                | 0871603 |
| 4. Industrial Technology 8                         | 0872003 |
| 5. Music Production & Technology 8                 | 0872203 |
| 6. Speech and Drama 8                              | 0872403 |
| 7. Technology and Information Literacy 8           | 0872013 |
| 8. Technological Systems 8 (Engineering by Design) | 0872023 |

\*Family and Consumer Sciences 8A and 8B are stand-alone courses that can be taken in any order.

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## HIGH SCHOOL CREDITS EARNED WHILE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Due to a change in BOE Policy 2525, students who successfully complete a high school course while in middle school will have the course recorded on their high school transcript for G.P.A. and credit notation. These courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Algebra
- Honors Physical Science 8
- French 1
- German 1
- Spanish 1
- Mandarin Chinese 1

## SCHEDULE CHANGE POLICY FOR HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

Please make your choices of courses for next year very carefully. ONCE THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS HAS BEEN COMPLETED, STUDENT-INITIATED SCHEDULE CHANGES WILL BE CONSIDERED ONLY WITH PRINCIPAL APPROVAL. Parents are requested to review their student's course requests prior to the completion of enrollment.

## DROPPING A HIGH SCHOOL COURSE

High School courses offered at the middle school include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Algebra
- Honors Physical Science 8
- French 1
- German 1
- Spanish 1
- Mandarin Chinese 1

If a student drops a class after the first ten (10) days of a semester, the student receives an "F" for the semester.

## 8TH GRADE REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

0820001 Semester 1  
0820002 Semester 2

This course is designed to ensure college and career readiness by providing students with the opportunity to volume read and volume write in order to explore enduring understandings that characterize the literature they read. Fiction categories will include short stories, novels, poetry, and drama. Non-fiction categories will include auto/biography, essays/speeches, newspapers/magazines, print/electronic resources and poetry. They will also demonstrate their comprehension of these understandings by writing formally and informally - including argumentative, narrative, and informational writing - with an emphasis on the development of the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing, formats, and thesis development with support. Students will further develop active listening skills and practice effective speaking skills incorporating media and/or

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technology. Students will expand information literacy skills by planning research, gathering and evaluating information, taking notes, and documenting sources.

### PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS 8

0822001 Semester 1  
0822002 Semester 2

This course is designed for students to engage in studies that have a greater degree of differentiated instruction and self-direction than the regular communication arts course and ensure college and career readiness. It is intentionally vertically aligned with/to the Pre AP and AP courses taught at the high school level.

Students will explore - through specific genres of fiction, non-fiction, and media - enduring understandings that characterize the literature they read with increased focus on analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. Students will read deliberately and thoroughly, taking time to understand a work's complexity, to absorb its richness of meaning, and to analyze how that meaning is embodied in literary form. Careful attention to textual detail will provide a foundation for interpretation.

Students will demonstrate the ability to write formally and informally - including reflective/creative, argumentative, and analytical writing, with an emphasis on the development of various formats and the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing. Writing instruction will include attention to developing and organizing ideas in clear, coherent, and persuasive language; a study of the elements of style; and attention to precision and correctness.

Students will use and analyze media in oral and visual presentations. They will also continue to develop research skills and the citing of sources in MLA format.

Students must meet a select criteria to be placed in this course. This course is not a prerequisite for high school Pre AP or AP courses, nor does it automatically qualify a student for those courses.

### MATH 8

0832001 Semester 1  
0832002 Semester 2

This course is designed to provide students with a strong foundation and conceptual understanding in real-life problem solving. The focus is on three critical areas: 1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; 2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; 3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

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### ALGEBRA

0833001 Semester 1  
0833002 Semester 2

This course is designed to develop an understanding of algebraic concepts. Students will learn to think logically and symbolically. Using experimentation and reasoning, students will develop the knowledge necessary to create and manipulate symbolic rules. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to, patterns, ratios and proportions, linear equations and inequalities, and quadratic and exponential models. Students must meet a select criteria to be placed in this course. *Students who meet the criteria will be notified.* This course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript.

### PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8

0845001 Semester 1  
0845002 Semester 2

Grade 8 Physical Science will allow students to investigate and apply scientific processes through inquiry, research, and hands-on activities. Students will have the opportunity to use technology and experimentation in the study of the following areas: scientific inquiry, process skills and the scientific method, properties of matter, forms of energy: light, sound, heat, and electricity and magnetism, energy and transformations, force and motion, Newton's Laws, work and simple machines, and the history and scientists that have contributed to these areas of study.

### HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8

0846001 Semester 1  
0846002 Semester 2

Prerequisite: Students must meet Challenge criteria and be concurrently enrolled in Algebra.

Honors Physical Science is designed for the student with an interest in a science career pathway. Students should have strong math and reading skills. Students will learn to communicate their thoughts, use appropriate scientific language, and demonstrate understanding of science process skills and procedures. Essential units of Earth Science will be embedded into the key topics of atomic theory, physical and chemical properties of matter, conservation of matter, energy transformations, thermodynamics, linear motion, forces, Newton's Laws, energy and nuclear properties. Lab experiences, scientific inquiry, advanced thinking and problem-solving skills are used to emphasize scientific concepts. This course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript.

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### U.S. HISTORY 8

0850001 Semester 1  
0850002 Semester 2

This course is designed to study United States history from colonization through the Reconstruction following the Civil War. Topics covered include the colonial period, the American Revolution, the U.S. Constitution, westward expansion, reform movements, the Civil War and Reconstruction. By its very nature, this course will be a people's history of the United States, allowing for extensive exploration of the vast multicultural nature of our country.

### PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT U.S. HISTORY 8

0855001 Semester 1  
0855002 Semester 2

This course is designed to study United States history from colonization through the Reconstruction following the Civil War. Topics covered include the colonial period, the American Revolution, the U.S. Constitution, westward expansion, reform movements, the Civil War and Reconstruction. By its very nature, this course will be a people's history of the United States, allowing for extensive exploration of the vast multicultural nature of our country.

Emphasis will be placed on the advanced development of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills, particularly in the analysis of historical data and primary sources.

Students must meet a select criteria to be placed in this course. This course is not a prerequisite for high school Pre AP or AP courses, nor does it automatically qualify a student for those courses.

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 8

0860001 Semester 1  
0860002 Semester 2

The physical education portion of this course promotes the use of specialized skill in sports and fitness activities. Emphasis is on applying movement concepts and principles to real-life situations. The knowledge of rules and game strategies is developed through participation. Students will accept responsibility for their own personal fitness and pursue lifelong physical activity to meet their own needs. All students are required to dress out in an approved gym uniform for physical education.

The health portion of this course will help students gain knowledge of diseases and disorders associated with all the body systems and identify prevention and treatment strategies. There will be focus on lifestyle behaviors and choices as they relate to a person's health. Emphasis will be placed on the role of communication skills and relationships and their association to overall health and wellness. The Thrive® St. Louis organization will present information on how choices affect human growth and development.

**SEMESTER-LONG ELECTIVES**

**ART 8**

0871003

Eighth Grade Art is designed to expand and build upon learning experiences developed in the 6th and 7th Grade exploratory Art courses, however an explo course is not a pre-requisite. Students will create, respond to, present, and connect their ideas visually and verbally in traditional and new media. Creativity and aesthetic thinking skills will be developed for real world applications. Students will have opportunities to explore diversity and innovation by demonstrating a willingness to experiment and take risks and to pursue meanings that emerge in the art-making process. Media may include graphite, pastels, paint, or clay. Growth will be measured through active participation, studio work and portfolio production.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES 8A**

0871503

This course includes Nutrition and Wellness and Consumer Education. Discover Family and Consumer Sciences through experiences in food preparation and nutrition. Students will learn the basics about preparing a variety of foods. Meal management skills and use of kitchen tools and equipment will also be taught. Consumer and personal finance are also included thus laying the foundation for good money and resource management.

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES 8B**

0871603

This course covers the topics of Sewing, Interior Design, and Child Development. Sewing machine equipment use and project construction are featured in this course. There will also be an introduction to interior design using the principles and elements of design. Child development is included, teaching students how children develop and how to interact appropriately with children at various ages and stages.

**INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY 8**

0872003

This course is designed for hands-on project construction and problem solving activities. This semester course is spent in the traditional shop setting where students construct a variety of projects. While making these projects students will investigate material, design and planning processes, safety, measurement, and tool applications. Students will also practice (and utilize) math and science concepts that apply to the technological processes being taught. Student evaluation is a combination of tests and project construction.

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### MUSIC PRODUCTION & TECHNOLOGY 8

0872201

Do you listen to music most every day? Do you ever wonder how to make music using your computer or other device? Music Production & Technology students in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will investigate music production in a more in-depth manner, allowing students to develop or build upon previous skills to produce more sophisticated compositions (see 7th grade course description). Differentiating to multiple skill levels, students will examine composition, songwriting, and recording to create, present and perform works through various multimedia projects, such as combining audio with images or creating a podcast. Students will continue to expand their knowledge of basic musical concepts, and apply them to technology-based projects.

### SPEECH AND DRAMA 8

0872403

This performance class is designed to improve the students' abilities to present themselves in front of others through oral reports, class presentations, and class discussions. Students will learn drama, speaking, and listening skills. Topics include types of communication, acting, public speaking, and performance production. These topics will be compared and contrasted with mass media and electronic communication. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Speech and Drama performances teach presentation techniques for persuasive speeches, pantomimes, improvisations, skits and scenes. The students' training will develop critical and creative thinking ability. Techniques taught in Speech and Drama are required in many core classes.

### TECHNOLOGY AND INFORMATION LITERACY 8

0872013

Do you want to design, code and play your own video games? This technology class will investigate activities in a more in-depth manner to problem solve, create, explore current social trends and career awareness. Activities will include movie making using an i-Pad, web design, coding, and advanced 3-D modeling. This course will prepare students for high school and beyond who want to advance themselves in technology skills.

### TECHNOLOGICAL SYSTEMS 8 (ENGINEERING BY DESIGN)

0872023

This course is intended to teach students how technological systems work together to solve problems and capture opportunities. A system can be as small as two components working together (technical system/device level) or can contain millions of interacting devices (user system/network level). We often break down the macrosystems into less complicated microsystems in order to understand the entire system better. However, technology is becoming more integrated, and systems are becoming more and more dependent upon each other than ever before. Electronic systems are interacting with natural (i.e., biological) systems as humans use more and more monitoring devices for medical reasons. Electrical systems are interacting with mechanical and fluid power systems as manufacturing establishments become more and more automated. This course will give students a general background on the different types of systems, but will concentrate more on the connections between these systems.

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## YEAR-LONG ELECTIVES

### BEGINNING BAND

7871331 Semester 1  
7871332 Semester 2

Did you miss out on the opportunity to join band last year? Don't worry! This class is open to any middle school student without previous band experience! Students will work with others to learn how to play an instrument and perform in at least two concerts during the school year. Through the exploration of a new instrument, students will learn how to read and perform music, and will develop lifelong skills such as responsibility, personal goal-setting, and teamwork. Contact the school's band director if you have questions about instrument selection and how to sign up!

### BAND 8

(previous band and/or private lessons and teacher approval required)

0871101 Semester 1  
0871102 Semester 2

This is a performance course comprised of students who have had at least two years of instruction and have attained an average or above level of proficiency on their instrument. These students have developed a good background in rhythms, music reading and playing fundamentals necessary for performing more advanced material. Class work will include reviewing, reinforcing and expanding music fundamentals and techniques through concert literature and instrumental method books. All bands will perform at least two concerts during the school year.

### CHOIR 8

0871201 Semester 1  
0871202 Semester 2

This is a performance course where techniques of tone production, posture, diction, breathing, and intonation will be emphasized and the ability to match pitch is recommended. In addition, reading of pitches, rhythms, and score markings will be a significant portion of the class. Part singing, musicianship qualities of interpretation, style, dynamics, phrasing, balance, and group consciousness will be introduced. Music will include unison and two, three, and four part harmony. Students will be evaluated on singing ability, active class participation, written work, tests, and participation in concerts. Students are expected to perform in at least two concerts during the school year. Special concert attire may be required by the instructor.

### FRENCH I

0871701 Semester 1  
0871702 Semester 2

This course is designed to introduce the student to the fundamentals of this language. Emphasis will be placed on acquisition of vocabulary and grammar through reading, writing, speaking and listening. The study of the people, culture, customs, and geography of French speaking countries will be integrated throughout the course. To be eligible to enroll in the Advanced Placement French class in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students MUST enroll in French 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript.

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### GERMAN I

0870801 Semester 1  
0870802 Semester 2

This course is designed to introduce the student to the fundamentals of this language. Emphasis will be placed on acquisition of vocabulary and grammar through reading, writing, speaking and listening. The study of the people, culture, customs, and geography of German speaking countries will be integrated throughout the course. To be eligible to enroll in the Advanced Placement German class in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students MUST enroll in German 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript.

### SPANISH I

0872301 Semester 1  
0872302 Semester 2

This course is designed to introduce the student to the fundamentals of this language. Emphasis will be placed on acquisition of vocabulary and grammar through reading, writing, speaking and listening. The study of the people, culture, customs, and geography of Spanish speaking countries will be integrated throughout the course. To be eligible to enroll in the Advanced Placement Spanish class in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students MUST enroll in Spanish 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript.

### MANDARIN CHINESE I

0871901 Semester 1  
0871902 Semester 2

This course is designed to introduce the student to the fundamentals of this language. Emphasis will be placed on acquisition of vocabulary and grammar through reading, writing, speaking and listening. The study of the people, culture, customs, and geography of Mandarin Chinese speaking countries will be integrated throughout the course. To be eligible to enroll in the Advanced Placement Mandarin Chinese class in 12<sup>th</sup> grade, students MUST enroll in Mandarin Chinese 1 in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This course will count for G.P.A. and credit on high school transcript.

### SPECTRA

(for those enrolled in gifted program)

0873001 Semester 1  
0873002 Semester 2

Middle School Spectra is designed as an elective course for students in the gifted program. Students further develop and refine research, communication, technology, problem solving, social/emotional, and higher-level thinking skills. 8<sup>th</sup> grade activities may include: video making/editing, podcasting, debate, and mock trials. Students may also be provided with opportunities to participate in academic and performance competitions. After completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students are expected to be autonomous learners and take ownership in their education.

## **ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES** **(ESOL) PROGRAM**

The ESOL program at the middle school level supports English Language Learners (ELLs) who must learn to communicate effectively in English in the areas of reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and presenting. Students study curriculum-based content while focusing on English language learning. Students who qualify for ESOL services may receive ESOL instruction and support based on their needs. Students attend regular content area classes with age-appropriate peers.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ESOL Beginners</b> <b>(prerequisite: ESOL Teacher Recommendation)</b></p>
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This class will help English Language Learners learn the basics of the English language in the four skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as provide academic support in their regular content area classes.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ESOL Writing and English Language Arts</b> <b>(prerequisite: ESOL Teacher Recommendation)</b></p>
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This class emphasizes intensive academic instruction in the structures of writing, reading strategies, vocabulary building, as well as improving their listening and speaking skills. Students will learn the writing process and polish skills in the areas of vocabulary, spelling, reading, writing mechanics, grammar concepts, and paragraph transitions. Students will improve their ability to write Standard English from the basic sentence level progressing towards writing reports and essays for a variety of audiences and purposes.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ESOL Reading</b> <b>(prerequisite: ESOL Teacher Recommendation)</b></p>
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This class will help English Language Learners expand their reading vocabulary and improve academic reading skills. Students will develop reading and comprehension strategies while learning to read English, progressing to the study of different content-based genres and themes.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ESOL Studies</b> <b>(prerequisite: ESOL Teacher Recommendation)</b></p>
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This class is designed to help English Language Learners improve their academic language skills. The ESOL teacher collaborates with regular classroom teachers to provide academic support and homework help for English Language Learners.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER SCHOOL**  
**READING AND MATH ASSISTANCE**

Parents of students in grades 6-7-8 needing assistance in Reading and Math will be contacted about the new middle school summer school design. Students who are identified as needing additional assistance in reading and/or math will have the opportunity to enroll. Additional information will be distributed to parents through their child's middle school.

For additional about the Middle School Summer Summer School, please contact your child's building administrator or contact [FHSDsummerschool@fhdschools.org](mailto:FHSDsummerschool@fhdschools.org) or call (636) 851-4012.